

- 1           1.    A flat panel display comprising:  
2                a tiled array of display elements wherein each  
3 display element has a front surface that emits light and a  
4 back surface that does not substantially emit light;  
5                a seam between adjacent display elements; and  
6                a strap attached to said back surfaces over the  
7 seams between the display elements.
- 1           2.    The display of claim 1 including a plurality of  
2 straps over a plurality of seams.
- 1           3.    The display of claim 2 wherein the plurality of  
2 straps are attached to the back surfaces so that the straps  
3 are perpendicular to each other.
- 1           4.    The display of claim 3 wherein the perpendicular  
2 straps are attached to each other.
- 1           5.    The display of claim 4 wherein the perpendicular  
2 straps are attached to the frame.
- 1           6.    The display of claim 1 including a frame.
- 1           7.    The display of claim 2 including an optical  
2 integrator attached to the front surfaces of the display  
3 elements.

1           8.    The display of claim 7 wherein the plurality of  
2   straps redistribute stress from the optical integrator to  
3   the straps.

1           9.    The display of claim 8 wherein the plurality of  
2   straps redistribute bending stress as tension in the  
3   straps.

1           10.   The display of claim 8 wherein the plurality of  
2   straps redistribute stress as compression in the straps.

1           11.   A method comprising:  
2                arranging an array of display elements to form a  
3   flat-panel display, the display elements each having a  
4   front surface that emits light and a back surface that does  
5   not substantially emit light; and  
6                securing a strap across seams between the  
7   adjacent display elements.

1           12.   The method of claim 11 including securing a  
2   plurality of straps across seams so that said straps are  
3   perpendicular to each other.

1        13. The method of claim 11 including securing an  
2        optical integrator to the front surface of the display  
3        elements.

1        14. The method of claim 13 including redistributing a  
2        stress placed on the optical integrator to the strap.

1        15. The method of claim 14 wherein redistributing the  
2        stress includes redistributing the stress as tension in the  
3        strap.

1        16. The method of claim 14 wherein redistributing the  
2        stress includes redistributing the stress as compression in  
3        the strap.

1        17. A method comprising:  
2                configuring a flat-panel display from an array of  
3        display elements, each of the display elements having a  
4        front surface that emits light and a back surface that does  
5        not substantially emit light;  
6                fastening straps across seams between back  
7        surfaces of the adjacent display elements; and  
8                redistributing a stress placed on a transparent  
9        front surface of a flat-panel display to said straps.

1           18. The method of claim 17 wherein redistributing a  
2 stress includes redistributing a bending stress on said  
3 front surface as compression in the straps.

1           19. The method of claim 17 wherein redistributing a  
2 stress includes redistributing a bending stress as tension  
3 in the straps.

1           20. The method of claim 17 including adhesively  
2 securing said straps to said display in a grid pattern.